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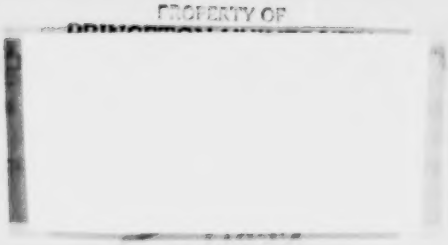

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 5 - Nepal

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02383

NEPAL

CHINA
NEPAL
Kathmandu
BHUTAN
Kakarvitta
Biratnagar
Jhapa and Morang
Districts
INDIA
BANGLADESH
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
200
Km.
Capital
Town or village
Area of refugee concentration/influx

II.6 NEPAL

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, 86,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from Bhutan, largely of ethnic Nepalese origin, were registered and assisted by UNHCR in eight camps in the south-eastern districts of Jhapa and Morang in Nepal. According to Nepalese authorities, another 17,100 asylum-seekers were living in Nepal unassisted. The assisted population is composed of entire family groups and presents a balanced proportion of both sexes of all age groups. Because extended family support is usually high there are virtually no unaccompanied minors. Most of the camp population is made up of subsistence farmers with little or no education, although there is a significant number of highly educated professionals and civil servants. Most children had previously attended schools in Bhutan and therefore are by and large literate. Eleven persons of various nationalities recognized under the UNHCR mandate represent the urban refugee group in Kathmandu. Furthermore, during the course of 1994, a total of 2,542 other refugees and asylum-seekers from neighbouring countries also were assisted by UNHCR while transiting through Nepal.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

2. As in 1993 and following the opening of a screening centre for asylum-seekers, the rate of influx remained largely stable with two to three new arrivals per day. Some 60 to 70 per cent of the new arrivals were granted refugee status mainly on family reunification grounds, while only a few persons were recognized on a strict protection basis. Bilateral negotiations between Nepal and Bhutan to find durable solutions for the camp population continued but, despite progress, no major breakthrough was achieved in the June 1994 and March and April 1995 meetings. While voluntary repatriation continues to be advocated as the most appropriate durable solution, the Office stands ready to support efforts that may be required in Nepal to work out durable solutions, mainly voluntary repatriation and, where feasible, local integration.

3. The outbreak of micronutrient deficiency in the camps during the last quarter of 1993 has been significantly reduced, thanks to the distribution of parboiled rice and blended food in the general ration. Both commodities were provided by WFP, while the daily provision of 100 grams of fresh vegetables per person continued. The food distribution has also been accompanied by an enhanced nutrition education campaign conducted in all camps. The difficulties experienced in the past years in finding the necessary quantities of shelter materials led to the use of a new roofing system using sandwich panels (made out of bamboo and plastic sheeting). The conversion of the temporary shelters to more durable shelters initiated in 1994 should be completed during the course of 1995.

4. The planned pilot projects for income-generation activities have been completed and an evaluation is being carried out by UNHCR and OXFAM to assess the impact of this project on the camp population. The degree of emphasis that should be placed on these activities in the second half of 1995 and in 1996 is also being

evaluated. A feasibility study to identify alternative cooking-fuels to replace kerosene was completed in the last quarter of 1994. The study showed that kerosene remains the best option for the programme in Nepal because its cost is highly subsidized by the Government, and therefore it will continue to be distributed. To develop energy savings, however, an enhancement of the present cooking system used in the camps is envisaged. The other main care and maintenance activities in the camps were implemented as planned.

5. The Refugee-impacted Areas Rehabilitation Programme (RARP) initiated in 1994 and designed to reduce the impact of the refugee influx on local communities through small development projects focusing on health, reafforestation, flood protection and road repairs will be completed during the third quarter of 1995. Meanwhile a project on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation in Areas Hosting Asylum-seekers from Bhutan is being initiated with funds provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ). This project will cover activities such as road rehabilitation, river training (which involves directing the flow of the river) and forest protection over a four-year period.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

6. The process of transferring responsibility to the refugees and asylum-seekers in the management of camp activities began in late 1994 will be pursued while shifting focus from rehabilitation activities to more human welfare-oriented activities. The main objectives are for refugees to take over as many routine camp operation and maintenance functions as possible from agencies, and to scale down contractual implementing arrangements accordingly. To adequately implement the above objectives, training activities for refugees and asylum-seekers will be strengthened. Refugee women will be further involved in camp management, decision-making and self-governance structures and their effective participation in all sectors of the assistance programme will be ensured. Community-based approaches and arrangements for the care of vulnerable groups will be further developed. Education for children with special needs/disabilities (e.g., blind children) will be expanded within the framework of the camp school system. Health services and facilities in the camps will be brought into closer conformity and compliance with government standards, criteria and policies prevailing in the two affected districts. To this end, the possibility of utilizing drugs and other health and family planning supplies and services available at reduced or no cost from the Government or United Nations agencies such as UNICEF and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will be explored. UNHCR's direct operational role at camp levels will be further reduced, while planning, coordination, training and monitoring will be enhanced.

7. In order to counter tensions in camps, including camp politicization, efforts undertaken for community development and training of refugees and asylum-seekers in basic legal literacy, dispute resolution and leadership will be intensified so that in-camp problems can be resolved without external intervention; training activities on how to administer efficiently camps with due regard to refugee rights will be provided for government camp administrators and law

enforcement officials. Status determination procedures for new arrivals will be maintained through the effective presence of UNHCR at the border screening centre. Care and maintenance will be provided as in the past for asylum-seekers transiting through Nepal. For other individual cases under the mandate, the policy of providing only limited and needs-verified assistance will be maintained. Promotional activities will be pursued through refugee law workshops with judges, administrators and lawyers, including enhancing cooperation with the Law Faculty of Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. Activities for implementation of the "Oslo recommendations" will be undertaken by the Nepalese UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) group.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

8. To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, and considering that the main activities such as shelter construction, water and sanitation will have been completed during 1995, the initial 1996 proposal under these sectors mainly covers only maintenance costs. Consequently, total requirements under care and maintenance are lower compared with the 1994 and 1995 levels. Requirements under the food sector have been maintained at the same level as the revised 1995 budget to account for the need to continue local procurement of fresh vegetables to prevent any further outbreaks of micronutrient deficiency among the refugee population. The reduction in the health sector is in line with the foreseen decentralization of health activities. The increased budget under the education sector will provide for 40,000 students and at the same time allow the implementation of special education activities for disabled children. The increase in agency operational support costs is mainly due to the intensification of training activities.

9. The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1995 and the initial 1996 care and maintenance allocations is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	253,300	553,557	554,000
Transport	582,833	449,293	407,143
Domestic needs	1,252,196	933,192	932,667
Water	161,245	140,455	140,000
Sanitation	233,940	201,367	160,000
Health/nutrition	687,606	663,794	513,478
Shelter	191,931	397,821	194,000
Comm. services	327,987	289,741	302,020
Education	853,290	717,889	902,816
Crop production	24,690	12,326	12,000
Livestock	19,900	19,898	0
Forestry	75,410	75,189	74,000
Income generation	266,780	271,017	280,000
Legal assistance	189,915	209,219	196,090
Agency op. support	528,977	713,042	527,086
Total	5,650,000	5,647,800	5,195,300

(c) **Implementing partners**

10. The Home Ministry through the National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs (NUCRA) and the Refugee Coordination Unit (RCU) will continue to coordinate the programme for Bhutanese refugees and asylum-seekers and at the same time be responsible for camp administration and security, screening and registration of the camp population, and inter-agency/inter-ministerial coordination.

11. WFP will provide basic as well as supplementary food and transport up to extended delivery points. The Lutheran World Service (LWS) will be in charge of engineering works and camp infrastructure repair and maintenance as well as water and sanitation sectors.

12. The Nepal Red Cross Society will carry out food and non-food items distribution, including kerosene. Save the Children Fund (SCF)-UK will continue to implement the health sector, including the monitoring of supplementary feeding. As of January 1995, the Association of Medical Doctors for All (AMDA) has taken over the indoor health care services in Beldangi camps from SCF-UK as implementing partner and will continue to provide these services in 1996.

13. OXFAM will carry out non-formal literacy classes and income-generation activities. CARITAS-Nepal, with the support of Agency for Personnel Service Overseas (APSO), will be responsible for primary and secondary education. The Ministry of Soil and Conservation will be in charge of environmental protection in the areas surrounding the camps.

14. Social counselling activities will be ensured by the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT). The Home Ministry, through NUCRA and RCU, will also be responsible for the implementation of the developmental activities under the project on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation in Areas Hosting Asylum-seekers from Bhutan.

(d) **Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs**

15. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I(A/AC.96/845), refers).

(i) **1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)**

16. The 1994 expenditure was higher than revised estimates mainly under common staff costs due to higher rates of staff rotation.

(ii) **Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)**

17. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than initial estimates due to the creation of two local General Service posts. Non-staff costs are not significantly different from initial estimates.

(iii) **Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)**

18. The 1996 initial requirements are not significantly different from the 1995 revised requirements. Staffing levels and non-staff costs have been retained at the same level as in 1995. Provision is made for the replacement of two vehicles for Sub-Office Jhapa.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN NEPAL

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
4,976.6 a/	5,650.0	5,647.8	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	5,195.3
3.4 b/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
1,293.9	1,072.8	1,118.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,139.0
6,273.9	6,722.8	6,765.9	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	6,334.3
143.4	132.2	145.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	142.9
6,417.3	6,855.0	6,911.3	T O T A L (1)	6,477.2
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
276.0	–	8.8	OTHER TRUST FUNDS PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	8.8
99.2	83.0	33.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	33.0
375.2	83.0	41.8	T O T A L (2)	41.8
6,792.5	6,938.0	6,953.1	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	6,519.0

a/ of which US$ 3,027 incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes